

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINN.

St. Louis County, in northeastern Minnesota, was selected as an area for study partly because of its varied industries but principally because two-thirds (67.5 percent) of all operators in this area worked off their farms in 1934 for additional income. This county borders on Lake Superior and Duluth is its principal city. In 1930 the population of the county was 204,596 persons of which 23.6 percent was classed as rural. The rural folk were about equally divided between those living on farms and those not living on farms. Next to Duluth, which had 101,463 inhabitants, the largest incorporated cities in the county were Hibbing, with 15,666 persons, and Virginia, with 11,963 persons.

The gainfully employed males 10 years old and over in this county in 1930 numbered 64,261, of which 56,451 were engaged in nonagricultural pursuits distributed by industry as follows:

	Number	Percent
<b>Nonagricultural</b> .....	<b>56,451</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Forestry and fishing (fishing—72).....	2,082	3.7
Extraction of minerals.....	8,843	15.7
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	13,532	24.0
Building.....	3,410	6.0
Clay, glass, and stone.....	447	0.8
Food and allied.....	1,014	1.8
Automobile factories and repair shops.....	522	0.9
Metal.....	4,253	7.5
Lumber and furniture.....	1,162	2.1
Paper, printing, and allied.....	585	1.0
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	2,139	3.8
Transportation.....	10,945	19.4
Trade.....	10,149	18.0
Public service.....	2,738	4.9
Professional service.....	3,029	5.4
Domestic and personal service.....	2,355	4.2
Industry not specified.....	2,778	4.9

A high proportion of the farm operators in this county owned their farms, as 81 percent owned all the acreage they were operating and another 10.7 percent owned a portion of the land they were operating. Only 8.2 percent of the operators were tenants. In general, the part-owner farms, either part-time or non-part-time, were larger than the corresponding group of full-owner farms and the full-owner farms were larger than the

tenant farms. In each tenure class the average size of the part-time farms was smaller than for the non-part-time farms, and this was true of the median size for full owners but for part owners and tenants the medians were the same. It should be pointed out that a high proportion of the individual farm sizes were reported as 40 acres or 80 acres and very few were given as falling between these sizes.

The average size of family was smallest on full-owner farms, followed by those on tenant farms. For all three tenure classes the part-time farms had larger families than the non-part-time farms. For part-time farms only, 37 percent of the tenants, 19 percent of the full owners, and 16 percent of the part owners reported a back-to-the-farm movement during the previous 5-year period. As to the operators, 74 percent of the tenants, 27 percent of the full owners, and 22 percent of the part owners had been on their farms less than 5 years.

St. Louis is the largest county in Minnesota and has a land area of approximately 4,161,920 acres, or 6,503 square miles. Only 14.6 percent of the county area was within the boundaries of the 7,919 farms enumerated in 1935. These farms on an average contained 77 acres and were valued at \$2,275, while the median farm had 60 acres and the median value of farms was \$1,800. Although, as shown above, two-thirds of the farm operators had additional income from work performed off their farms, 53.3 percent of such operators worked less than 50 days with an average of only 19 days. Another sizable proportion, 18.6 percent, worked 50 to 99 days with an average of 68 days, while the remainder, or 28.1 percent, worked 100 days or more with an average of 189 days. Farms in the lowest time group had a median size of 80 acres while the farms in each of the other two time groups had a median size of 40 acres. Practically all of the work which could be classed as to nature of occupation was considered to be nonagricultural, about which more will be said in a succeeding paragraph.

The part-time group of farmers had larger families than had the non-part-time group as evidenced by 4.3 persons per occupied dwelling for the former and 3.7 persons for the latter. Twenty-one percent of the part-time farms reported a movement of persons back to the farm within the previous 5-year period and the number of persons so migrating represented 14 percent of the population on all part-time farms. Corresponding percentages for the non-part-time group were 15 percent for farms reporting and 11 percent for the total population. Thirty-one percent of the part-time operators had been on their farms less than 5 years as compared with 21 percent of the other group of farm operators.

About one-fourth of the farm acreage for both the part-time farms and the non-part-time farms (24.9 percent for the former and 26.3 percent for the latter) was reported as harvested crop land in 1934 and 98 percent of the farms in both groups produced a crop of some kind. The most frequently grown crop was hay with 94 percent of the farms in each group reporting. Ninety-three percent of the part-time farms and 90 percent of the non-part-time farms raised potatoes. Percentages of farms reporting several other crops were, those for the part-time farms being given first: Oats 32, 32; vegetables for sale and strawberries 19, 17; barley 9, 10; and wheat 6, 7. Using the same order, the percentages of the farms reporting the various kinds of livestock were: Horses 46, 54; cattle 81, 76; sheep 8, 7; hogs 17, 14; and chickens 55, 55. Hay was cut on four-fifths of the harvested crop acreage for both the part-time and non-part-time farms, oats formed about 8 percent of the total and Irish potatoes about 5 percent. All the other crops were of much less importance. The average numbers of the different species of livestock per farm were smaller for the part-time group than for the non-part-time group which, in some degree, logically follows a smaller acreage per farm.

The data for the nonagricultural group of occupations have been subclassified in tables 37, 38, and 39. "Laborers" represented more than one-half of the non-agricultural group of occupations. The foreword to this chapter should be read to ascertain what occupations were included with "laborers", with "relief work", etc. In many cases in this county the occupation was given as "road work", with a varying number of days spent off the farm. These cases were included with "laborers." Particular attention is directed to the fact that one-half of those with an occupation of laborer worked off their farms less than 50 days, whereas two-thirds of those with an occupation of mining worked 100 days or more off their farms. Notable differences appear among the other subclasses.

ST. LOUIS CO., MINNESOTA

